

Fact Sheet: Restoring Principle: A Foreign Policy Worthy of the American Dream

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio
The American Enterprise Institute
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Rubio: “Diplomacy, foreign assistance and military intervention are tools at our disposal. But foreign policy cannot be simply about tactics. It must be strategic, with a clear set of goals that guide us in deciding how to apply our influence. These goals should be to protect and defend our people, to promote liberty and human rights throughout the world, and to advance the enduring pursuit of peace for all mankind.”

A NEW VISION

- **“The time has now come for a new vision for America’s role abroad – one that reflects the reality of the world we live in today.”**
- **“While military might may be our most eye-catching method of involvement abroad, it is far from being our most often utilized. In most cases, the decisive use of diplomacy, foreign assistance, and economic power are the most effective ways to achieve our interests and stop problems before they spiral into crises.”**
- **“[F]orce used with clear, achievable objectives must always remain a part of our foreign policy toolbox. Because, while we always prefer peace over conflict, sometimes our enemies choose differently.”**

STOPPING THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

- **“[T]here is no more important use of our influence and power than to prevent rogue regimes and terrorist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.”**
- **“We must demonstrate a willingness to maintain an unwavering position of strength in all talks, because Iran’s goal at the negotiating table has never been peace, but rather to win relief from sanctions without making irreversible concessions.”**
- **“We need to make absolutely clear to Iran’s leaders that sanctions will continue to increase until they agree to completely abandon any enrichment or reprocessing capability.”**
 - Rubio led a group of Republican senators in writing a letter to President Obama urging him to increase pressure on Iran. (Senator Marco Rubio, “Rubio, Republican Colleagues Urge Obama To Increase Pressure On Iran,” [Press Release](#), 9/24/2013)
 - Rubio cosponsored the “Iran Sanctions Loophole Elimination Act of 2013” ([S.892](#), 5/21/2013)
 - Rubio on the Senate floor: “Iran does not have forever to prove that they are serious.” (Senator Marco Rubio, “Rubio on Senate Floor: Keep Heat On Iran On Nuclear Talks,” [Press Release](#), 10/15/2013)
 - Rubio introduced a resolution calling for additional sanctions on Iran. ([S.Res.269](#))
 - Rubio recently announced his intentions to “work with my colleagues in Congress to pass additional sanctions as soon as possible to continue to increase pressure on Iran until it completely abandons its nuclear weapons program.” (Senator Marco Rubio, “Rubio: Stalemate In Iran Nuclear Talks Makes Clear More Sanctions Needed” [Press Release](#), 11/10/2013)
- **“We can tackle the challenges of these nuclear rogues by maintaining an effective deterrent, not merely hoping that unilateral disarmament will lead the Iranians or North Koreans of the world to follow our lead.”**

- During nomination hearing, Sen. Rubio questioned State Department Arms Control nominee regarding administration plans regarding further nuclear reductions. (Senator Marco Rubio, "Rubio Questions State Department Arms Control/Nonproliferation Nominees," [YouTube](#), 9/26/13)
- Rubio took the lead in writing a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry arguing that the United States' nuclear arsenal should only be reduced with Senate approval. (Senator Marco Rubio, "Nuclear Arsenal Should Only Be Reduced With Senate Approval," [Press Release](#), 6/19/2013)
- **"We should seek to establish flexible, adaptable groups of like-minded states to counter the threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, rather than solely relying on arms control agreements that are often not worth the paper they're written on."**

LATIN AMERICA AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

- **"[Cuba has] successfully worked to restrict their people's access to information in a variety of ways, including strictly controlling Internet access. We should transition our information programs from focusing only on content to focusing on access as well, particularly access that's not subject to regime scrutiny."**
 - At a Heritage Foundation event regarding human rights in Cuba, Rubio said he believes Cuba's Communist regime would collapse if more citizens had open access to the Internet. (The Heritage Foundation, "Senator Marco Rubio Talks Cuba, Budget and ObamaCare," [Video](#), 3/22/2012)
 - "The U.S. Senate today unanimously approved a bill led by U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL). The legislation proclaimed the Senate's opposition to an international effort to regulate the Internet." (Senator Marco Rubio, "Senate Passes Rubio-Backed Internet Freedom Bill," [Press Release](#), 9/22/12)
- **"Our support of tough actions by our democratic allies in Colombia and Mexico are two examples of how patience and principles pay off."**
 - Rubio "I do believe the United States has a joint commitment as the consumer market to help our allies in the region to fight against these criminal organizations. So I think that we must remain committed to that cause. We have seen progress, for example, Colombia is an example of what we can do together with the progress that Colombia has had on the war against criminal organizations." (Senator Marco Rubio, "ICYMI: Rubio Discusses Western Hemispheric Issues from Summit of the Americas," [Press Release](#), 4/13/12)
 - Rubio: "We already have a great relationship with the Colombian military, forged through years of close cooperation and shared successes. ... I urge Southcom and Joint Special Operations Command to maintain robust cooperation with the Colombians to defeat the FARC so peace can come to Colombia." (Senator Marco Rubio, Op-Ed, "Crucial Time For Our Hemisphere," [Miami Herald](#), 12/30/12)
- **"[W]e should consider ways to expand cooperation among our security forces. This would enable us to better focus our efforts to stop illicit human, narcotics and weapons trafficking in the hemisphere."**
 - Rubio: "The U.S., through Southcom, should aggressively pursue direct military-to-military engagement and joint exercises with countries in the Western Hemisphere that welcome our presence. In particular, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Paraguay and Chile deserve more attention from the Department of Defense (DoD)." (Senator Marco Rubio, Op-Ed, "Crucial Time For Our Hemisphere," [Miami Herald](#), 12/30/12)
- **"We must find ways to make the visa application process less burdensome for those wishing to travel and do business in the United States. For instance, many Brazilians are interested in visiting Florida's tourist attractions, but take their business elsewhere due to onerous visa procedures. Simplifying this process would be a positive move toward friendly nations and a boon to our nation's economy."**

- **“On the energy front, the Western Hemisphere needs to establish itself as a democratic, peaceful and stable alternative to the Middle East.”**
- **“Approving the Keystone pipeline and authorizing the U.S.-Mexico Transboundary Agreement are good first steps.”**
 - Rubio cosponsored bills to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project in both the 112th and the 113th Congress. ([S.1932](#), [S.2041](#))
 - Rubio cosponsored a bill to require the Secretary of State to act on a permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. ([S.582](#))
 - Rubio: “Obama's decision not to move forward on the Keystone pipeline is a mistake. This decision offers even more appalling evidence that this administration is hopelessly rudder-less in its jobs and energy policies.” (Senator Marco Rubio, “Keystone Pipeline Should Move Forward,” [Press Release](#), 1/18/12)
- **“We should also continue to cultivate the shale revolution here in the United States and leverage it to increase our geopolitical presence.”**

ASIA

- **“Japan is a perennial reminder of how democracy and free enterprise can transform a foreign power from a dangerous adversary into a lasting friend. Now, the Abe government is examining ways in which Japan can use its military outside of narrow self-defense missions. We should wholeheartedly support these efforts.”**
- **“Taiwan shows that traditional Chinese culture and democracy can coexist and even flourish. We should explore ways to deepen our relationship with Taiwan through bilateral trade agreements and by working together on economic reforms so that they can eventually join the Trans-Pacific Partnership.”**
- **“We remain hopeful that China’s leaders would use their growing influence to engage as a responsible world power. But we cannot ignore their increasingly assertive and illegitimate territorial claims. And we cannot ignore the human rights violations that happen as a matter of state policy.”**

EUROPE

- **“In Europe, we need to build on the expanding community of close American allies that are essential economic and strategic partners. Key to this goal is ensuring that our efforts to engage with Russia do not come at the expense of our allies, many of whom face threats from their much larger neighbor to the east.”**
- **“America’s economic might has always been linked to our openness. We can work to maintain this openness by partnering with key allies such as South Korea, Poland, and others in Central Europe, to extend access to our Visa Waiver Program.”**

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOREIGN AID

- **“Consider modern day slavery in the form of human trafficking, which subjects the most vulnerable to a life of bondage and abuse. This is a problem that America must do more to combat, not just abroad but in our very own backyards. Modern day slavery exists in every state in America, including my home state of Florida.”**

- “The Florida freshman has made trafficking, which usually involves either forced labor or the sex trade, one of his signature issues” (Emily Cadei, “Rubio Questions State Department’s Enforcement of Human Trafficking Laws,” [Roll Call](#), 5/16/13)
- Rubio has cosponsored multiple bills and amendments to combat human trafficking during the 112th and 113th Congress:
 - Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (No Bill Number Assigned Yet, 11/19/13)
 - Human Trafficking Reporting Act ([S.413, 2/28/13](#))
 - The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act ([S.Amdt 21 to S.47, 2/12/13](#))
 - End Trafficking in Government Contracting Act of 2012 ([S.2234, 3/26/12](#))
 - Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2011 ([S.1301, 6/29/11](#))
- **“Another human rights outrage that remains prevalent around the world is the systematic, often violent persecution of religious minorities. Christians in particular are increasingly targeted for persecution throughout the world.”**
 - During a nomination hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Rubio challenged the Obama administration to issue its “country of particular concern” designation for those who violate religious liberty on an annual basis, a precursor to sanctions. These sanctions, along with other punitive measures that can be imposed, expire automatically after two years. (Senator Marco Rubio, “Rubio: Violators Of Religious Freedom Should Be Shamed & Sanctioned Annually,” [Press Release](#), 11/7/13)
- **“Protecting the rights of every person to worship in accordance with their faith must always be a clear priority of the United States, and that will require us to speak firmly to our adversaries and frankly to our friends.”**
 - Rubio: “In political prisons and torture chambers all over the world today, political prisoners need similar hope and the comfort of knowing that they are not alone in their struggle because America stands with them.” (Senator Marco Rubio, Op-Ed, “Political Prisoners Everywhere Deserve America’s Support,” [Christian Broadcasting Network](#), 7/13/12)
- **“We must establish a consistent willingness to speak out when the Russian government steps over the line, particularly with regard to human rights abuses.”**
 - Rubio proposed the United Nations Transparency, Accountability and Reform Act of 2013, which has a provision that denies funding to the United Nations until it forbids consistent abusers of human rights to be members of the United Nations Human Rights Council. (Senator Marco Rubio, “Rubio Introduces United Nations Reform Bill,” [Press Release](#), 7/17/13, [S.1313](#))
 - Ahead of a recent U.N. General Assembly vote on candidate nations for the U.N. Human Rights Council, Rubio reiterated that serving on this council “should be an honor reserved only for countries that truly strive to uphold the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.” (Senator Marco Rubio, “Rubio: Human Rights Abusers Have No Place On The UN Human Rights Council,” [Press Release](#), 11/8/13)
- **“Furthermore, when it comes to human rights and humanitarian causes, we must put our money where our mouth is by conditioning our foreign assistance to reflect our values and interests.”**
 - Rubio introduced “Foreign Aid Transparency and Accountability Act of 2013, a bill that requires regular evaluations of foreign assistance programs to be made publicly available to the American people.” The Senate Foreign Relations Committee unanimously approved the bill on November 14th. (Senator Marco Rubio, “Rubio, Cardin Introduce Bill To Increase Transparency Of Foreign Aid,” [Press Release](#), 7/10/13; [S.1271](#))
- **“Consider the good that America has done to alleviate suffering in the Philippines after Typhoon Haiyan.”**

- As the Ranking Member of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian & Pacific Affairs, Rubio highlighted the work of the American government and private American organizations helping those in the Philippines deal with the rescue and recovery efforts. (Senator Marco Rubio, [Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian & Pacific Affairs Hearing](#), 11/19/13)
- **“Also on the foreign aid front, I am currently working to ensure that our assistance to Egypt advances our long-term goal of a stable, democratic Egypt, something that will not be possible if we recklessly cut all assistance to that country.”**
- Rubio introduced an amendment to “block two key forms of U.S. assistance to Egypt unless economic reforms and human rights safeguards are adopted, while also initiating a more thorough, longer term reevaluation of U.S. military assistance to Egypt.” (Senator Marco Rubio, “Rubio To Introduce Measure to Block Aid To Egypt Absent Economic & Human Rights Reforms,” [Press Release](#), 3/12/13; [S.Amdt.44 to H.R.933](#))

SEQUESTER

- **“[O]ur fiscal challenges at home have even caused some, including a few Republicans, to question why so much defense spending is necessary. I believe the Department of Defense, like any government agency, should be efficient and eliminate all waste from its budget.”**
- **“[T]he fact is that President Obama has been making dangerous cuts to the defense budget since entering office. Our uniformed military leaders and the past three Secretaries of Defense all agree that these cuts, when coupled with those imposed by sequestration, threaten military preparedness.”**
- Rubio joined colleagues as a cosponsor of “The Down Payment to Protect National Security Act,” which would have stopped sequestration from cutting our defense spending by finding other areas in the budget to cut from. (Senator Marco Rubio, “The Down Payment to Protect National Security Act,” [Press Release](#), 2/3/12)
- **“These massive cuts will tempt our adversaries to test us, scare our allies, and leave America vulnerable to attack.”**
- **“To lift the sequester we must find a real, lasting solution to the true cause of our growing national debt: the unsustainable path of important programs like Medicare and Social Security.”**

FREE TRADE

- **“Expanding free and fair trade will create job opportunities for our own people and will have a profound impact in lowering poverty abroad.”**
- Rubio took to the Senate floor to highlight his amendment encouraging free trade and the economic benefits new free trade agreements would have on the economy. (Senator Marco Rubio, [Senate Floor](#), 9/22/11, [S.Amdt. 651 to S.Amdt. 633 to H.R. 2832 \(Trade Adjustment Assistance Extension Act of 2011\)](#))
- Rubio: “Approving free-trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea would be a boon to our economy, create jobs for Floridians, and help solidify our alliances with these steadfast allies. The agreements with Colombia and Panama in particular would boost Florida’s economy, where over 1 million Floridians remain out of work. ... A February 2011 Foreign Relations Committee report by Sen. Richard Lugar, ‘Losing Jobs and Alienating Friends: The Consequences of Falling Behind on Free Trade with Colombia and Panama,’ notes that “U.S. market share is being lost to China, Brazil, and other countries in Latin America that benefit from trade accords with Colombia.’ ... Florida in particular will be short-changed if we don’t approve

trade agreements with Colombia and Panama. According to Enterprise Florida, last year Colombia ranked as Florida's second-largest international trade partner. Nearly half of all U.S.-made high-tech goods exported to Colombia originated in Florida. Florida is the principal gateway for Colombian firms entering the North American market. And using U.S. Department of Commerce rule-of-thumb estimates, passage of the U.S.-Colombia agreement would likely result in the addition of 6,400 Florida jobs annually. With regards to Panama, over 10 percent of its worldwide trade moves through Florida. Fifty-six percent of all U.S.-made high-tech goods exported to Panama originated in Florida. And the agreement's passage would likely result in approximately 1,800 jobs annually." (Senator Marco Rubio, Op-Ed, "The Consequences of Trade Inaction in Latin America," [NRO](#), 3/18/11)

- **“Concluding TPP with our Asian partners and TTIP with Europe should both be top priorities given their potential to reinvigorate our alliances in key regions and spread economic opportunity at home.”**

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